The Labour gazette July 1907-June 1908

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Allan Line	H. & A. Allan.
Can. Pac. Railway Co.	
Atlantic Steamship Lines	Per D. McNicoll, Vice-Pres.
Donaldson Line	
Thomson Line	The Robert Reford Co., Ltd
Lord Line	William I. Gear, Vice-Pres.
(and outside steamers consigned to them.)	
Dominion Line	
Leyland Line	Jas. Thom, Manager.
Mamburg-American Line	
South African Line	Elder, Dempster & Co.
Mexican Line	Per A. E. Cook.
	Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd.
Manchester Liners	Per J. R. Binning, Manager
Black Diamond Line	T. G. Watt, Agent.
Head Line	McLean, Kennedy & Co.
Holme Line	P. pro. Wm. R. Eakin.
Quebec Steamship Co.	J. G. Brock & Co., Agents.
F. A. Routh & Co.	
Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co.	F. A. Routh & Co.

Early in the month of July the Department was informed by Mr. Thomas Robb, secretary of the Shipping Federation, that between 500 and 600 men had so far registered their names under the conditions stated in the notice above printed, while the remainder of the men were expected to do so. The agreement signed by the men was as follows:—

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to work for the above Steamship Lines as Longshoremen in the Port of Montreal whenever notified by them so to do, from 1st July season 1907, until the last steamer sails from the Port of Montreal, season 1907, at rates set forth on the back hereof, conditional on our receiving at the end of the season, after, the sailing of the last steamer from Montreal, an additional sum of two and one half cents (2½c.) per hour for each hour worked by us for the above Lines and we further agree to notify them of any change in our house addresses. Said payments to be made by the Steamship Line for which they have worked on application after the sailing of the last steamer but prior to the 5th December, 1907.

The rates agreed to as set forth on the back of the above document showed an increase of 2½ cents per hour over the rates in force at the beginning of the season and apart from the hours secured under the conditions named.

III.—ACT INVOKED BY MINERS AT SPRINGHILL, N.S.

THE Board of Conciliation and Investigation appointed on behalf of the Cumberland Railway & Coal Company Limited on an application from Pioneer lodge No. 1, Provincial Workmen's Association and which commenced during the month of May, an investigation of the disputes which had been referred to it as reported in the *Labour Gazette* for June did not proceed further with the investigation during June, but in the course of a letter to the Department the Honourable Justice Graham, Chairman of the Board, stated that the Board would reassemble on July 3. Considerable correspondence with reference to the interpretation to be placed upon certain clauses of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act 1907, took place between Mr. William Watkins, Secretary of Pioneer Lodge No. 1, P.W.A. as representing the men concerned in the dispute of the Department.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE ACT AT MARBLE BAY, TEXADA ISLAND, B.C.

THE June issue of the Labour Gazette contained a statement concerning the prosecutions under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907 at Marble Bay, Texada Island, B.C., and indicating that a settlemen had been effected when the disputing parties had been brought together in court, the statement in question being forwarded to the Department by Mr. J. Edward Bird, counsel for the defendant in the case, and having been prepared jointly by Mr. Bird and Mr. C. B. McNeil, K.C., counsel for the employing company and prosecutor. The case, which was the first charge of an infringement of the Act to be heard was tried before Mr. H. C. Alexander, police magistrate, an official statement from whom has now been received in the Department is as follows:—

VANCOUVER, B. C., 19th June, '07

The Registrar
Boards of Conciliation and Investigation,
ttawa, Ont.

Sir

Rex vs. DeGreek

I herewith beg to report on the above cause in which there was a charge laid against the above defendant, under Section 56 of *The Industrial Disputes' Investigation Act* 1907, for going on strike prior to an investigation being held into a dispute between the Tacoma Steel Company

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and its employees of which number the above defendant was one. The property of the Tacoma Steel Company is situated at Marble Bay, Texada Island. Similar charges were laid against three other employees, Jess, Rutherford and Halliday, but were not proceeded with, the DeGreek case practically being a test one. The case after being adjourned twice, came on for hearing at Van Anda, Texada Island, on the 30th ult. After all the evidence being put in for the prosecution and the defence partially gone into, it appeared to me that the whole trouble had arisen from a misunderstanding. Certain demands had been made by the employees and the Company was given till 1st April to consider them. On 25th March, the men working in the stopes and those getting out ore were laid off. The employees thought this was a partial lockout and struck on that date. The Company's explanation was that they were unable to ship ore to the Tacoma Smelter, which is the smelter they ship their product to, because of a strike there, and as their ore bins were full they were forced to suspend operations. There was a difference of opinion as to this being fully explained or at all to the employees on 25th March, the date the strike took place. Upon this explanation being given in court by the witnesses for the prosecution, I stopped proceedings and asked both parties if they were willing to discuss a settlement as it was apparent a misunderstanding had arisen and the real matters between them, viz., wages, etc., had never been discussed at all. After a short discussion they agreed to do so. Court was adjourned and a committee from the employees met the Managing Director and Local Manager of the Company. I am pleased to say that after certain small points were finally adjusted, the main questions having been settled upon, the strike was declared off and the property has resumed work. All the prosecutions were withdrawn.

I am making this report, personally, as there is no clerk in the County Magistrate's Court at present.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) HY. O. ALEXANDER, P. M.

ADDRESS OF SIR WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G., AT FERNIE, B.C., ON THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

IN connection with the dispute in the western coal fields, during the last weeks of April and the first week of May last, between the several companies comprising the Western Coal Operators' Association and the miners in the employ of these companies, a report of the settlement of which appeared in the Labour Gazette for June, an address on industrial questions of special interest was delivered by Sir William Mulock at Fernie, B.C., on May 6, on the day on which the agreement between the disputing parties was signed. Sir Wiliam Mulock was the chairman of the Board of Conciliation and Investigation established under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907, under which the mine operators and their employees had been referred. Sir William Mulock's address, though having a special bearing upon the dispute that had been recently brought to a satisfactory settlement is of deep interest to all concerned in labour questions or in the welfare of the Industrial classes; this interest is further increased by the fact that Sir William was for a number of years the Minister of Labour and was the Minister of the Government who introduced the Act establishing the Depart. of Labour. Pressure on space prevented the address being printed in the June issue of the Labour Gazette in connection with the report of the settlement of the dispute to which in part it referred, but in view of the circumstances indicated above it has been deemed desirable to publish the text of the address in the present issue of the Gazette. The meeting at which the address was delivered was actually the final meeting of the Board of Conciliation and Investigation that had been appointed by the Minister of Labour in connection with the dispute. It was, however, of a public character and Sir William Mulock presided, being supported by Messrs. L. P. Eckstein, J. L. Parker and F. B Smith, members of the Board.

The terms of Sir. William Mulock's address were as follows:—

"Speaking to my colleagues of the board, I presume our labours end with this meeting. We have not organized formally under the act, it not appearing necessary to do so. If we had to proceed with the enquiry, we should have been obliged to take the oath of office and proceed in the usual way. We thought it better that we should meet formally. We learnt that the parties themselves, aided by Mr. Mackenzie King, were negotiating a settlement, and we, on our part, decided to defer formal action in the hope that the happy result which to-day has been achieved might be reached by the parties themselves. You have, I think, acted most wisely in coming together and adjusting your differ-

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Other Disputes

A strike of *carpenters* employed by the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company at Sorel, Que., which began on March 27, was not formally declared off, but the Company reported that they were no longer affected as they had secured all the carpenters they required.

A strike of *painters* which took place at Hamilton, Ont., on May 1, on account of the refusal of the contractors to grant a demand for an increase in wages from 30 to 40 cents an hour, was terminated on June 24, when a wage scale at the minimum rate of 30 and 32 cents an hour was agreed on. About 22 firms and 148 employees were affected by this dispute.

No settlement was reached in a strike of *plasterers* at Winnipeg, Man., which began on May 1, on account of the refusal of the employers to grant a demand for an increase in wages to 40 cents an hour. While about 30 firms and 110 employees were originally affected by this dispute, the numbers were reduced to about 20 firms and 70 employees by June 1, the increase in wages having been granted by 10 firms.

A strike of *stonecutters* which occurred at Hamilton and Thorold, Ont., on May, 25, on account of the discharge of an employee by a foreman, was terminated on June 1, the foreman being dismissed. About 16 men were affected by this dispute.

No change in the situation was reported in the case of a strike of 20 *marble workers*, at Toronto Ont., who went out on May, 29, because they refused to work with men who were not members of their union The latter employees, who belonged to a rival labour organization continued at work.

No settlement was reached in the case of a strike of 20 *marble workers* of the J. G. Gibson Company at Toronto, which took place on April 25 on account of the employment of non-unionists. It was reported that the strikers had obtained work elsewhere and that the firm had secured some immigrants to fill their places but were still shorthanded.

No change was reported in a strike of 27 *harness and collar makers* at Peterborough, Ont., which began on April 22, on account of the refusal of the employers to grant a demand for an increase in wages and for recognition of the union.

A strike of *boilermakers* which began on November 19, 1906, at Victoria, B.C., was officially declared off on June 1. The British Columbia Marine Railway Company, which was involved in this dispute, reported, however, on June 20, that very few of the strikers had gone back to work. The cause of the dispute was the refusal of three firms to grant a demand for a working day of eight hours with the current nine hour scale of wages. About 34 men were originally directly affected by the dispute, and 40 indirectly. The strikes of *shipwrights* and *shiplabourers* arising out of this dispute, which began on November 27 and 28, still continued unsettled.

A strike of *iron moulders* at Guelph, Ont., which began on May 23, and originally affected 2 firms and 32 employees, was terminated on June 17. One firm employing 12 men had granted the demands of the strikers for an increase of 5 per cent in their wages, on May 27, and the other firm, which temporarily had filled the places of most of the strikers in May, granted the demand of their former employees on June 17, and work was resumed by them.

A dispute of *copper miners* of the Marble Bay mine on Texada Island, B.C., which began on March 25, was terminated on May 30, and work was immediately resumed. The settlement was brought about largely by the friendly offices of Mr. H. C. Alexander, police magistrate, before whom a case was brought under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907*

New Disputes.

An account of the principal new disputes of the month is given below.

Strike of Machinists at Toronto, Ont.

On June 8, about 750 machinists employed in about 50 establishments declared a strike at Toronto, on account of the refusal of the employers to grant a de-

* An account of the settlement of this dispute is given in a special article on page 1412 of the June number of the *Labour Gazette*.